



Setting the Record Straight: H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Myth #1: *The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act will standardize federal elections to ensure that the voting rights of every American citizen is protected across the United States.*

Fact: H.R. 4, just like H.R. 1, would federalize our election system and give unprecedented power to unelected career bureaucrats in Washington.

- ✓ The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would require states to seek permission from the federal government before making even minor changes to their election laws.
- ✓ Commonsense election security policies like voter ID laws, signature matching, and maintenance of voter rolls would have to be approved by career bureaucrats at the Department of Justice (DOJ), President Biden, and Attorney General Garland.
- ✓ H.R. 4 also allows any citizen to file for the enforcement of a Section 5 preclearance, opening the floodgates for vast power to be transferred to the DOJ. Put simply, H.R. 4 is a backdoor for progressives to derail widely supported election reforms.

Myth #2: *The DOJ and the Attorney General would only implement a Section 5 preclearance in instances when there is a clear case of discrimination.*

Fact: Partisan bureaucrats at the DOJ have a history of undermining election reforms they simply do not like. The vast power H.R. 4 gives to the Attorney General creates the space and opportunity for political abuse without out any oversight from Congress.

- ✓ In 2012, the federal court overruled a DOJ case against South Carolina's voter ID laws because it was underdeveloped and unnecessary. Frivolous cases like this will be more common under H.R. 4, as it concentrates even more power in the hands of the Executive.
- ✓ It is a fact that the DOJ has historically worked with partisan progressive groups on election issues. A 2013 report from the DOJ Inspector General found that the majority of DOJ lawyers working on election issues were from five liberal advocacy organizations. A Georgia federal judge wrote this of the blinding partisanship within the DOJ: "Succinctly put, the considerable influence of ACLU advocacy on the voting rights decisions of the United States Attorney General is an embarrassment." (*Johnson v. Miller*)
- ✓ H.R. 4 is a power grab: a power grab for the DOJ, Attorney General, and liberal advocacy groups across America. It is an attempt by Democrats to change the tide of our elections and put their personal political goals above the rights of the American people.

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Myth #3: *The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act will decrease instances of discrimination by strengthening the enforcement mechanism of the Voting Rights Act.*

Fact: **H.R. 4 would restore an outdated provision of federal law that was already struck down as unconstitutional and unnecessary by the United States Supreme Court in 2013.**

- ✓ The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would overturn the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby v. Holder* by creating an even more onerous formula for determining discrimination in voting rights than the one employed by the original Voting Rights Act.
- ✓ In its 2013 ruling in *Shelby v. Holder*, the Supreme Court acknowledged that states across this nation have made great progress eradicating inequities within our election system.
- ✓ Despite this, by adding Section 5 back into the Voting Rights Act, the DOJ would be given free rein to declare virtually any state law it does not like as “discriminatory.”

Myth #4: *H.R. 4 is the only way to effectively protect the rights of minorities.*

Fact: **The Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 created provisions that protect the rights of all Americans and ensures that there is no discrimination in voting practices. These sections are currently law and continue to ensure equal access for all.**

- ✓ Section 2 of the VRA currently includes a nationwide ban on voter discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or membership in a language minority group.
- ✓ In addition, Section 3 of the VRA allows for court-imposed preclearance requirements when that specific court determines that there was intentional discrimination that violates the 14th and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
- ✓ Further, Section 11 of the VRA prohibits voter intimidation and coercion, and section 208 protects the voters’ right to have physical assistance in casting their ballot.

Myth #5: *The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is the only way to incentivize higher levels of minority turnout during federal elections.*

Fact: **As much as Democrats want you to believe that our current system suppresses minority voters, there is no evidence to support that claim. In fact, the evidence suggests the opposite – minority voter turnout continues to break records.**

- ✓ In April 2021, the Census Bureau concluded that the 2020 election attracted “the highest voter turnout of the 21st century.”
- ✓ The same study by the Census Bureau found that minority voters registered and turned out to vote in the highest numbers ever in our nation's history.
- ✓ These two facts completely undermine the Democratic Party's claim of voter disenfranchisement and the need for a bill like the H.R. 4.

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